

Addressing Concerns

Confidentiality:

Be assured that OSA and GHS carefully protect patient confidentiality. Access to the data is limited to registered users.

The "Chilling Effect":

OSA only gives reports to criminal justice authorities if we receive a subpoena from the Attorney General's office. This program is intended for prevention and treatment of those affected by illicit use of prescription drugs.

Data Accuracy:

GHS uses "Fuzzy Logic" when they compile reports to look for identity theft. This allows them to pull together and compare names that are quite similar (e.g., "John Smith" and "Johnny Smith").

HIPAA:

Because OSA is a "health oversight agency" under HIPAA and the data submission is mandated by legislation, pharmacies do not need to use a patient release form or notify their patients that information is being released (see 45 CFR Section 164.512). However, pharmacies are not prevented from adding text about this release of information to their release of information forms.

Resources for Questions

OSA - The Office of Substance Abuse wants the Prescription Monitoring Program to be a benefit to dispensers. OSA staff will be happy to be of assistance to you in responding to your questions and concerns about the program.

Please contact Daniel Eccher, PMP Coordinator, with any questions or concerns:
Phone: (207) 287-3363
Email: daniel.eccher@maine.gov

OSA's Web Site

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa>

OSA's Information Resource Center

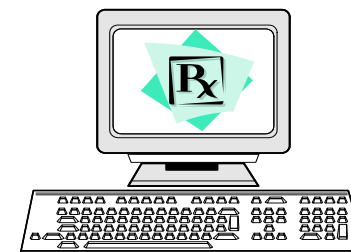
An excellent resource for further information about substance abuse
Phone: (207) 287-8900 or 1-800-499-0027
TTY: (207) 287-4475 or 1-800-215-7604

GHS - The contractor, GHS Incorporated, is located in Maine and maintains the PMP database. GHS staff are available to answer your questions regarding data submission and reports.

GHS Contact information:

Phone: (207) 622-7153
Web: www.ghsinc.com

Maine's Electronic Prescription Monitoring Program



An Overview for Dispensers

This brochure is to inform you of how the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) works and how you, as a dispenser, can use it to provide better care to your customers.



Maine Rx Statistics

- Abuse of prescription drugs has been on a rapid rise in Maine since 1997.
- Treatment admissions for prescription drug abuse have increased exponentially in recent years.
- Overdose deaths increased dramatically from 2001 through 2003, primarily because of prescription drug abuse.

PMP Overview

The Office of Substance Abuse (OSA) is the State Agency with oversight of the Prescription Monitoring Program. The purpose of this program is to provide dispensers with information to identify patients who may be misusing prescription medications.

OSA's contractor, GHS Data Management, Inc., collects all of the data and generates reports for Schedule II, III, & IV drugs. Each dispenser pharmacy sends electronic files of all their transactions for these drugs to GHS.

Quarterly reports are sent to dispensers (and prescribers) when thresholds for drugs have been reached by a particular patient. Dispensers can also request a report on a patient showing their history with these drugs.

DEA Numbers

OSA requests that dispensers work hard to report the cleanest data possible, especially where prescribers' DEA numbers are concerned. Though GHS does some data cleaning, it is limited. Because the DEA number is an integral part of the system providing information to prescribers, it is especially important that the proper number is recorded. Please help make this system reliable. The reports will only be as good as the data that is collected.

Registration

Quarterly reports are automatically sent to dispensers and prescribers. Dispensers can also request paper reports from GHS at any time. Registrants with PMP can also access data online.

Prescription Data Portal

OSA has developed an online data portal to access Prescription Monitoring Program data. To obtain this data on line, you must first register with the PMP.

Registration: To register with the PMP:

- Point an Internet browser to <http://www.maine.gov/pmp>; then, follow the link to the GHS Web Site.
- Next, scroll down to the "Sign Up" button for new users, and click on it.
- Fill in the required fields (for "User Type" choose "Both" if you are a pharmacist).
- Click the "Submit" button.

Once registered and approved by OSA, your user ID and password will be faxed.

Online Reports: Once you have received your approval from GHS, you can build your own reports online. Use your user ID, password, & e-signature for the online data portal:

<http://www.maine.gov/pmp>

This portal allows registered prescribers and dispensers to enter a first name, last name, and date of birth to generate a report of all Schedule II, III, and IV drugs that have been dispensed to a particular patient.

Using Reports

The Office of Substance Abuse is aware that Threshold Reports could create tough decisions to make as pharmacies deal with customers who appear on them.

By state law [32 MRSA § 13795 (2)], a pharmacist may exercise discretion and refuse to fill any prescription or dispense any drug if he or she is unsatisfied as to the legitimacy or appropriateness of any prescription presented.

OSA does not presume to tell dispensing pharmacies what to do with PMP data. Pharmacists should use their best professional judgment on each case as it presents itself. Please contact prescribers connected to the customer if it could be helpful. The objective is to identify possible problems, give people the treatment they need, and curb the illicit use of prescription drugs.